LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-12 cancelled.

13. (Currently Amended) A money item acceptor comprising:

a signal source to produce a money item parameter signal as a function of a sensed characteristic of a money item,

a store to provide data corresponding to a normal acceptance range of values of the parameter signal for a money item of a particular denomination, having ~~the range including~~ high and low acceptance probability regions, wherein the value of ~~a~~ the parameter signal corresponds to a high or low probability of an occurrence of a sensed money item of said particular denomination, and

a processor configuration operable to control a gate for directing money items towards an accept path or a reject path, the processor configuration further configured

to determine when an occurrence of the parameter signal corresponding to a first money item falls outside of the normal acceptance range, and to provide an output to the gate to direct the first money item towards the accept path,

and to compare the value of a subsequent occurrence of the parameter signal corresponding to a second money item with data corresponding to a restricted acceptance range as compared with the normal acceptance range,

and to provide an output to the gate to direct the second money item towards the accept path when the occurrence of the parameter signal corresponding to the second money item falls within said restricted acceptance range, and to provide an output to the gate to direct the second money item towards the reject path when the occurrence of the parameter signal corresponding to the second money item falls outside said restricted acceptance range, said processor configuration being further configured to determine when an occurrence of the parameter signal corresponding to the first money item falls within the normal acceptance range and within the low acceptance probability region of the normal acceptance range, and ~~in response thereto,~~ to provide an output to the gate to direct the first money item towards the accept path,

and to compare the value of ~~a subsequent~~ the occurrence of the parameter signal corresponding to ~~a~~ the second money item with data corresponding to ~~a~~ the restricted acceptance range ~~as compared with the normal acceptance range~~, and to provide an output to the gate to direct the second money item towards the accept path when the ~~second~~ occurrence of the parameter signal corresponding to the second money item falls within said restricted acceptance range, and to provide an output to the gate to direct the second money item towards the reject path when the ~~second~~ occurrence of the parameter signal corresponding to the second money

item falls outside said restricted acceptance range, said processor configuration being further configured

to determine when an occurrence of the parameter signal corresponding to the first money item falls outside of an internal security range of values within the high acceptance probability region of the normal acceptance range, and to provide an output to the gate to direct the first money item towards the accept path, said processor configuration being further configured

to determine when an occurrence of the parameter signal corresponding to ~~a~~ the first money item falls within ~~an~~ the internal security range of values within said high acceptance probability region of the normal acceptance range, ~~within said high acceptance probability region for a money item of a particular denomination~~, and ~~in response thereto,~~ to provide an output to the gate to direct the first money item towards the accept path, and

to compare the value of ~~a subsequent occurrence of~~ the parameter signal corresponding to ~~a~~ the second money item with data corresponding to said internal security range, and to provide an output to the gate to direct the second money item toward the accept path when ~~if~~ the ~~second~~ occurrence of the parameter signal corresponding to the second money item falls outside said internal security range and within said high acceptance probability region, and to provide an output to the gate to direct the second money item towards the reject path when the ~~second~~ occurrence of the

parameter signal corresponding to the second money item falls within said internal security range.

14. (Currently Amended) An acceptor according to claim 13 wherein, said processor configuration is further configured, in response to said first money item parameter signal falling within the internal security range of values to compare subsequent occurrences of the parameter signal with said internal security range, and

when a first number of ~~them correspond to acceptable money items~~ money items are accepted, to discontinue comparison with the internal security range of values, and,

after discontinuing comparison with the internal security range of values, and in response to a subsequent money item parameter signal falling within the internal security range of values, to compare subsequent occurrences of the parameter signal with said internal security range, and

when a second number of ~~them correspond to acceptable money items~~ money items are accepted, to discontinue comparison with the internal security range of values again, the second number being different from the first number.

15. (Original) An acceptor according to claim 14 wherein the second number is greater than the first number.

16. (Currently Amended) An acceptor according to claim 14 wherein the processor is configured to increment said first number by a predetermined amount to define said second number.

17. (Previously Presented) An acceptor according to claim 14 comprising a counter configured to count said first number and thereafter to count said second number.

18. (Previously Presented) An acceptor according to claim 17 wherein the processor configuration is configured to reset the count counted by the counter to a default count value in the event that there is no occurrence of a money item parameter signal within a predetermined security time period.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) An acceptor according to claim 13 wherein the processor configuration is configured to compare occurrences of the money item parameter signal with said internal security range for a first predetermined time period following an occurrence of the money item parameter signal that falls within said internal security range, and then to discontinue comparison with the internal security range.

21. (Previously Presented) An acceptor according to claim 20 wherein the processor configuration is configured, after discontinuing comparison with the internal security range, to compare occurrences of the money item parameter signal with said internal security range for a second predetermined time period following an occurrence of the money item parameter signal falling within said internal security range, and then to discontinuing comparison with the internal security range, said second time period being greater than the first time period.

22. (Previously Presented) An acceptor according to claim 21 wherein the processor is configured to define the second time period as a predetermined percentage increase of the first time period.

23. (Previously Presented) An acceptor according to claim 21 including a timer configured to time said first time period and said second time period.

24. (Previously Presented) An acceptor according to claim 21 wherein the processor configuration is configured to reset the time period timed by the timer to a default value in the event that there is no occurrence of a money item parameter signal within a predetermined security time period.

Claims 25-36 cancelled.